

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1945.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors,

I have the honour of presenting the Annual Report on the health of the Borough for the year 1945.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

Medical Officer of Health. L.E. Dickson, M.D. (part-time).  
Sanitary & Food Inspector. J. Wade, Cert.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Sec.A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres.	2,502.
Registrar General's estimate of resident population at mid 1945.	5,966.
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1945 according to the Rate Book.	1,683.
Rateable Value.	£28,283.
Sum represented by a penny rate.	£111.15.6.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total	M.	F.		
Live Births.	110.	45.	65.)	Birth rate per 1,000 of	
Legitimate.	96.	38.	58.)	the estimated resident	
Illegitimate.	14.	7.	7.)	population.	18.4

Still Births.	5.	4.	1.)	Rate per 1,000 total	
Legitimate.	3.	3.	- )	live and still births.	43.4
Illegitimate.	2.	1.	1.)		

Deaths.	73.	44.	29.	Death rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population.	12.2
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Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

Puerperal Sepsis.	- )	Rate per 1,000 live	-
Other Puerperal Causes.	1.)	and still births.	8.6

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.

	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate.	3.	3.	-
Total.	3.	3.	-

Death rate of infants under one year of age.

All infants per 1,000 live births.	27.2
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.	31.3
Illegitimate " " " illegitimate " "	Nil.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	8.
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping-cough (all ages)	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	Nil.

Sec.B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Public Health Officers of the Authority - see above.

1. Laboratory Facilities. )
2. Ambulance Facilities. )
3. Nurses in the Home. ) There has been no change.
4. Treatment Centres & Clinics. )
5. Hospitals. )

Hospital Services of the West Midlands Area.

The survey of hospitals throughout England & Wales, begun in 1938, was completed and published by H.M. Stationery Office.

It is recommended that although Shrewsbury should be considered the centre for investigation and treatment of general medical and surgical cases for the County of Shropshire, certain outlying districts should continue to look to other counties, without the county boundaries. Of these, Bridgnorth is one and could conveniently look to Wolverhampton as the nearest large centre providing consultant services.

Sec.C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA.

Water. The Rindleford mains supply has continued to give a sufficient and satisfactory supply to the town and the adjacent R.A.F. Camp at Stanmore, outside the Borough. Analyses have shown the water to be safe for all purposes though of a considerable degree of hardness.

No new mains were laid but a scheme for the extension of the mains and increasing the size of the boosters in the North West area of the town was prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineers.

The Hundred House Scheme for supplying farms in the Hundred House district and the parish of Oldbury came into operation during the year. Minor extensions of the supply may be possible at a later date.

Tasley. A supply of water is pumped to a tank outside the Borough to supply part of this parish which is in Bridgnorth Rural District.

Service Reservoir. The Council's proposed scheme for building a 200,000 gallon reservoir on Bromley Hill to augment the storage capacity for the mains supply was approved in principle in November, by the Ministry of Health. A formal contract was entered into with the contractor and work has since been commenced on this project.

Sewage & Sewerage. No new sewers were laid during the year. A new scheme for the disposal of sewage from the Borough at an approximate estimated cost of £82,000 has been prepared by consultants, approved in principle by the County Council and submitted for approval to the Ministry of Health.

The piping of the effluent from the old sewage plant at the Northgate to a lower point on the stream, and the greater rainfall during the year have improved the condition of the Cantreyn Brook.

Sec. D.

HOUSING.

Clearance Areas. Ten areas, comprising in all 182 houses, were scheduled as clearance areas during the year making with those dealt with in 1944 thirteen areas, comprising 202 houses. At the end of the year an area of 74 houses was ready for consideration by the Council (and has since been approved).

A review of this subject is included in the report of Mr. Wade, your late Sanitary Inspector.

Grove Housing Site. The necessary land for this housing scheme was purchased during the year 1945.

Sidney Cottage Site. Land for this scheme was purchased during the year 1945. Steady progress was made in preparation for putting this scheme into effect, but it was not possible to start work until 1946 owing to the difficulty of arranging for the necessary labour and other difficulties. Ten Tarran prefabricated houses have been completed and occupied in 1946 and 40 permanent houses are under construction, the first two being ready for occupation in October 1946, when an opening ceremony was performed by the Mayor.

Sec. E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The numbers of inspections are given in the Sanitary Inspector's report for the year.

Adulteration. No action has been taken by the Local Authority in this matter.

Sec. F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

There have been no epidemics during the year.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis.

	<u>Under 5 yrs.</u>	<u>Over 5 ; &amp; under 15.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Approximate estimated number of children in the area at mid. 1945.	487.	924.	1411.
Number of children immunised at December 31st 1945.	196.	612.	808.
Number of children immunised during the year 1945.	79.	10.	89.
Percentage of these children considered immunised at 31.12.45.	40.2	66.2	57.2

There was no case of diphtheria notified during the year.



Sec.F. (cont'd.)

Notifiable Diseases during the year 1945.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total cases notified.</u>	<u>Cases admitted to hospital.</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
Measles.	10.	-	-
Scarlet Fever.	2.	1.	-
Pneumonia.	3.	3.	1.
Puerperal Pyrexia.	4.	2.	-
Erysipelas.	1.	-	-
Whooping Cough.	9.	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	1.	1.	-
Acute Polio-Encephalitis.	1.	1.	1.

Cases of infectious disease requiring isolation are admitted by arrangement to Monkmoor Isolation Hospital.

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1945.

Age Period.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Resp.		Respiratory.		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1.	-	-	1.	-	-	-	1.	-
15 years.	-	-	-	3.	-	-	-	-
25 "	2.	-	-	-	1.	-	-	-
35 "	-	-	-	-	1.	-	-	-
45 "	1.	-	-	-	1.	-	-	-
55 "	-	1.	-	-	-	1.	-	-
65 & upwards.	-	-	-	-	-	1.	-	-
Total.	3.	1.	1.	3.	3.	1.	1.	-

I am, your obedient Servant,

L.E. DICKSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

# B O R O U G H    O F    B R I D G H O R T H.

Health Department.

23rd January, 1946.

To the Bridgnorth Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor and Members,

I have pleasure in presenting a brief summary of the work carried out during the past year, together with a Report on the sanitary circumstances of the area, requested by the Medical Officer of Health, and which should be considered as one with his report.

## INSPECTIONS MADE.

Nuisances .. .. .	45	Milk & Dairies .. ..	81
Drainage .. .. .	26	Food Inspections. ..	35
Sanitary Accommodation .. ..	18	Bakehouses.. .. .	24
ASHBINS .. .. .	5	Market Stalls .. ..	93
Housing Inspections. .. ..	330	Food Preparers .. ..	9
Moveable Dwelling Sites.. ..	25	Food Stalls. .. ..	9
Factories. .. .. .	6		<u>251</u>
Water Supply .. .. .	9		
Dirty Houses .. .. .	6		
Verminous Premises.. .. .	2		
Keeping of Animals.. .. .	30		
Smoke Abatement .. .. .	4		
Food & Drugs Act (as opposite)	<u>251</u>		
Total Inspections...	<u>757</u>		
" Re-inspections .. .. .	294		
" Visits not inspections..	783		

## NO. OF STATUTORY NOTICES AND RESULTS OF SAME.

Notices complied with .. ..	36
Notices not complied with ..	8
Notices not expired. .. ..	1
	<u>45</u>
Notices outstanding from 1944	41
Notices outstanding from 1944 and now complied with	20
Notices outstanding from 1944 and work done in default	3
Notices outstanding from 1944 and still outstanding	10

## NO. OF INFORMAL NOTICES AND RESULTS OF SAME.

Notices complied with .. ..	37
Notices not complied with and Statutory Notices served ..	14
Notices not expired .. .. .	10
	<u>61</u>

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION. It is pleasing to note that active steps are to be taken in the very near future by the firm concerned in an attempt to reduce the amount of smoke coming from the Bridgnorth Sanitary Laundry.

It is in a way unfortunate that the new houses are being constructed before it is reasonably possible to instal smokeless heating and cooking appliances. Perhaps the Council will keep in mind in future housing operations the need for cutting out domestic smoke as much as possible.

WATER SUPPLY. The mains water supply has again proved highly satisfactory throughout the year. The Conduit supply has been subjected to analyses which have given satisfactory results.

The Hundred House Bank Scheme, although not in every detail complete, is now affording a satisfactory water supply to the area it serves.

The position re. water supply in the Oldbury and Cross Houses areas and in one or two isolated instances is far from satisfactory and should receive the Council's earnest consideration at the earliest possible moment. In my last Annual Report I expressed the hope that it would be possible to give detailed particulars of the premises in the Borough which were without an adequate water supply, but the impossibility of taking any satisfactory steps to relieve the situation make it advisable that this be postponed.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL AND CONSERVANCY. The remarks above relating to the detailed report on water supply apply equally to sewage disposal since the two services are so closely connected and should be considered together.

FOOD. The standard of food preparation and storage remains fairly satisfactory and no food stuffs have had to be seized during the year.

The Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944, which transfers from Local Authorities to the Ministry of Agriculture the supervision of milk production has not yet come into operation, but it is expected perhaps towards the end of this year.

HOUSING. During 1944 three areas, comprising 20 houses, were scheduled by the Council as Clearance Areas. During the past year 10 areas, comprising 162 houses, were scheduled as Clearance areas and are in the hands of the Ministry of Health. A further area, comprising 74 houses, is completed and is awaiting acceptance by the Council. When this area is scheduled there will be a total of 276 houses dealt with as Clearance areas. In addition to these eight houses have been dealt with by means of Demolition Orders since the beginning of 1944, making a total number of 204 houses intended for demolition.

Thirty-eight houses have been inspected and not dealt with making the total number of houses inspected 322. This total falls short of the number of inspections intended when the survey was begun, but, as has been pointed out on previous occasions, the number of inspections given (750) was the number intended for inspection only. It has been the expressed policy of the Council to schedule the houses as inspections were made and at the meeting of the Waterworks and Sanitary Committee held in November, it was decided to recommend that the progress made in this direction, the number of houses still requiring inspection, and the short time left for the employment of the Assistant Inspector, necessitated an alteration; so that in future only inspections should be carried out, leaving the scheduling of areas until a later date. It was expected that in the time remaining, whilst the services of the Assistant Inspector were available, the survey could be completed if the very considerable amount of office work entailed in the scheduling of areas was cut out.


(Continued)



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Under the present circumstances, I have regretfully to suggest that housing inspections are discontinued until your new Officer is in a position to undertake the work himself. As regards the inspections that I have carried out, a few hours' work will suffice to bring this branch of the work completely up to date and I suggest that when this is done, the best use that can be made of the services of the Assistant Sanitary Inspector is in the direction of general sanitary work. Miss Newman will be able to do this until another Officer is appointed and thereafter to assist him considerably.

Yours faithfully,



SANITARY INSPECTOR.

